CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

The present writer decides to take a novel to discuss because novel has more detail information than other literary genres. In <u>Dictionary of Literary Term</u>, Shaw defines novel as "… a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying character and presenting an organized series of event and setting," (1972:257). Novel presents images of behavior, which can be seen through the action of the character. Therefore, novel is enjoyable to read and analyse.

The present writer decides to analyze a work written by Toni Morrison, an outstanding African–American novelist. The author is a very critical black writer; she is well known for her writings about black people. In 1993, she was the first African-American novelist who won the Nobel Prize for literature. Moreover, Toni Morrison won Pulitzer Prize for literature in 1998.

In this thesis the present writer chooses to analyse a novel by Toni Morrison's, namely <u>Sula</u>. "This novel was well received by critics, who particularly praised Morrison vivid imagery, strong characterization and realistic dialogue" (www.bookrags.com/studyguide-sula/). The book was nominated for a

National Book Award in 1974. The present writer notices that the novel is about the friendship between two women from their childhood to their womanhood. They have different personalities that make them a suitable combination and also complement each other. Their different characters lead them to different paths in following their dreams. Both women must take the consequences of their choices.

The focus of discussion in this thesis is the characterization of the major characters because the present writer finds that characterization is one of the most important aspects in this novel. Through the characters, the story can be analyzed and understood as they help the readers to understand the whole purpose of the writing of this book. Contrasting characters are very helpful in creating a good story. "The contrast between the behaviors of each character is what makes theme come alive and enable the reader to believe in them. The characters react to each other and develop throughout a novel, and it is this action and reaction that usually makes up the majority of good book " (Reader and Woods. 1987: 57).

The present writer proposes to analyze the differences of the two major characters in overcoming their problems. Finally, she would also like to find out the author's purpose of creating such different types of character.

Statement of the Problem

In anaysing the major characters in Toni Morrison's <u>Sula</u>, the present writer would like to state the problems as follows:

1. How does the author portray the contrasting female characters in <u>Sula</u>?

2. What is the author's purpose of creating such contrasting female characters?

3. How does the family background shape each of the major characters?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the present writer mentions the purpose of study as follows:

1. To analyze the portrayal of contrasting female characters in <u>Sula</u>.

2. To analyze the author's purpose of creating such contrasting female characters.

3. To analyze how the family background shapes each of the major characters.

Method of Research

The method of research that present writer applies is library research. She begins to read Toni Morrison's novel, entitled <u>Sula</u>. Then she also reads several reverences which are relevant and can support her analysis. Besides, she also explores the Internet to get some information necessary for her analysis. Finally, she makes some conclusions based on the analysis she has made in the previous chapter.

Organization of the Thesis

       The present writer divides the thesis into three chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which contains the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. The second chapter contains the Analysis of Contrasting Major Characters in Toni Morrison's <u>Sula</u>. The third chapter is the Conclusion, which includes the analysis that she has done in the previous chapter. The thesis ends with the Bibliography, which contains the primary text and several reference books that the present writer has used, and the Appendix, which contains a synopsis of the novel and the author's biography.